

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Finish The Work

Are trials a joy to you? Are you able to see their benefit in your life? Do you know that the testing of your faith will develop perseverance in you? Those are good questions. I often cannot see the benefit of a trial until after I have gone through it. Sometimes it has taken a great length of time and hindsight for me to understand how a trial has benefited my life.

When have you cried out to me in a trial? Do you know that I am with you in and through every trial that you face? You can ask me for wisdom as you go through trials in life. I will not reject you or your requests. It gives me great joy to help you to grow stronger in perseverance and faith as you trust and rely on me. It is foolish to go through trials without my help. Forgive me Lord for the times when I have thought I could “tough it out” and go through trials on my own. My own self-efforts have not been successful. My own efforts have left me bitter, angry and discouraged when I have been in the midst of trials. Yet, somehow you have been able to use even trials and tests that I have failed. **Yes, I have.**

I do have joy in knowing that you are using all of life including trials and tests to mold and shape my life. It is encouraging to know that you have never or will ever give up on me. **No, I will not.** I am sure that I have had to go through similar tests and trails more than once because I did not learn or receive their full benefit the first around. **Yes, you have.**

I want to grow strong in my faith and trust in you. I want to persevere so that I will become the person you want me to be. So, I give you permission to do whatever it takes to make me mature and complete. Help me to rely on you through every trail I face. Give me your wisdom in abundance so that I will have all that I need to persevere and grow strong in my faith in you. It is the desire of my heart for you to finish the work that you started and want to complete in me. I don't want to lack any good thing that you want to give me or do in and through my life. In every way I want my life to glorify your name and bear fruit in your kingdom.

I know that you will hear and answer this prayer of mine. **Yes, I have heard your prayer and you can be certain that I will answer it.**

Lord, use whatever it takes to grow my faith in you. I will consider it pure joy when I go through various trials because I know you are developing perseverance in me. I want to be mature and complete and not lacking anything as I follow and serve you. Amen

Faith *Mature And Complete*

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

NIV James 1:2-4

Faith *Perfect And Complete*

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

ESV James 1:2-4

Faith *Perfect And Complete*

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

NLT James 1:2-4

Faith *Perfect And Complete*

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

NKJV James 1:2-4

Faith *Mature And Complete*

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

NRSV James 1:2-4

Faith *Mature And Well-Developed*

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

MSG James 1:2-4

Faith *Perfectly And Fully Developed*

Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience. But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing.

AMP James 1:2-4

Faith *Full And Complete*

Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.

TLB James 1:2-4

Faith *Perfect And Complete*

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

NASB James 1:2-4

Faith *Perfect And Complete*

My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need.

NCV James 1:2-4

Mature And Complete

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Faith – James 1:2-4

In Context: *Read James 1*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Consider it | pure joy, | my brothers, | whenever | you face | trials | of many kinds, | because | you know that | the testing | of your faith | develops perseverance. | Perseverance | must finish | its work | so that | you may | be mature | and | complete, | not lacking | anything. James 1:2-4

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, use whatever it takes to grow my faith in you. I will consider it pure joy when I go through various trials because I know you are developing perseverance in me. I want to be mature and complete and not lacking anything as I follow and serve you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What attitude must you have in order to receive any benefit from going through trials?

What must you do if you are going to allow trails to accomplish their work in you?

How is it possible to go through trials and not receive any benefit from them?

How have trials tested your faith and caused you to grow in perseverance as you have followed Jesus Christ?

How have trials caused your faith to grow as you have relied on God to bring you through them?

What joy have you had in knowing that God was using a trial to grow your faith and trust in Him?

When have you asked God for His wisdom and strength to sustain you and bring you through trials?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Ask the Lord to give you His wisdom and His strength as you go and grow through trials in life.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to grow mature and complete in your faith as you go through trials with Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has used a trial to grow you in your faith in Him.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you ask God to give you His wisdom and strength as you go through trials and grow strong in your faith.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, grow my faith as I rely on your wisdom and your strength to bring me through trials in life.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how do you want to grow my faith as I rely on you in this trial I am going through?
